

REMARKS

Claims 13-24 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 12: Cancelled

13. (New) A seatbelt retractor for retracting a security belt windable and unwindable from a belt shaft that is rotatably supported in a housing, the seatbelt retractor comprising:

a tensioning drive that acts upon the belt shaft and that, upon release, rotates the belt shaft in the wind up direction of the security belt, the tensioning drive including a first component (15;20,31) that, upon release of the tensioning drive, initially initiates a rotation in the pull out direction and a second component (15;26), the two components (14,15;26,32) being set into movement relative to one another upon the triggering of the tensioning device and the tensioning device being arranged without a connection to the housing (10) of the seatbelt retractor on the belt shaft and rotating in common, before the triggering of the seatbelt retractor, with the belt shaft;

a reverse movement stop (18,19) is arranged between the first and second components (14,15;26,20,32) of the tensioning drive; and

a blocking element (17) that can be triggered in a belt-sensitive and/or vehicle-sensitive manner for blocking the rotation of the belt shaft in the unwinding direction, the blocking element being retained on the first component (15;20,31) and being, via the movement of the first component, steered into its blocking

position, the belt shaft being connected with the second component (15;26) of the tensioning drive, which second component is rotated in the wind up by reason of the application of the drive force occurring in connection with the fixedly disposed first component, whereby the reverse movement stop (18,19) is arranged between the first and second components (14,15;26,20,32) of the tensioning drive and is continuously effective in the extension direction and runs in a free running condition in the wind up direction.

14. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim 13, wherein the reverse movement stop is configured as a ratchet stop with a latch (19) that moves out of ratchet engagement with a tooth arrangement (18) upon rotation in the wind up direction.

15. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim 13, wherein the tensioning drive is configured as an electro-motor whose stator (14) forms the shaft body that acts as a support for the seatbelt (13) in the role of the second component and whose rotor (15) that retains the blocking element (17) is in the role of the first component.

16. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim 13 and further comprising a force limiting device configured as a torsion bar, the torsion bar (20) being arranged in the interior of the rotor (15) and is connected on its one end in a form-fitting manner with a profile head (21) serving as a support for the blocking element (17) retained thereon and is connected on its opposite end in a form-fitting connection with the rotor (15), whereby the rotor (14) is directly connected with the profile head (21) via structures designed to give way at a preset force application.

17. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim13, wherein the tensioning drive is configured as a pyrotechnic drive with a housing connected to a shaft body (25) supporting the belt (13) in the role of the second component and with at least one drive piece arranged in the housing (26) that is effective on a drive shaft acting in the role as a support for the blocking element (17) and is flow-contacted by the gas produced from a gas generator (29) upon the triggering of the tensioning drive in the role of the first component.

18. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim17, wherein the drive piece is configured as a piston (32) that is flow-contacted by the gas.

19. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim18, wherein the drive piece is configured from a piston (32) that is flow-contacted by the gas, whereby, for the purpose of a symmetrical force transmission in the event of a release, it can be provided that pistons are respectively arranged on both sides of the drive shaft in a symmetrical arrangement.

20. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim18, wherein the driveshaft and the piston (32) are coupled with one another via meshing teeth in a manner such that the linear movement of the piston (32) is, upon release of the tensioning drive, converted into a rotational movement of the driveshaft.

21. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim18, wherein there is wound onto the driveshaft a belt (33) that is guided over the piston (32) and is secured to the housing (26) such that the linear piston movement leads to an unwinding of the belt (32) from the driveshaft and, consequently, leads to a rotation of the housing (26) relative to

the fixedly retained driveshaft.

22. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim 17, wherein a belt (33) is wound onto the driveshaft and a pre-curved chamber, disposed in the path of the flow of the gas, is closely disposed to the housing (26) such that the flow-contacting of the belt (33) leads to an unwinding of the belt (32) from the driveshaft and, consequently, a rotation of the housing (26) relative to the fixedly set driveshaft.

23. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim 17 and further comprising a force limiting device configured as an inner disposed torsion bar (20) that is driven by the piston at its end arranged relative to the tensioning drive and is connected at its opposite end with a profile head (21) serving as a support of the blocking element (17), whereby the shaft body (25) is connected with the profile head (21) via structures designed to give way at a preset force application.

24. (New) A seatbelt retractor according to claim 17 and further comprising a gas generator (29) arranged on a fixedly set cover (28) of the seatbelt retractor and extends with its gas exhaust region (34) into a partitioned gas space (30) configured in the housing (26) of the tensioning drive.